[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

V

PROGRAMME OF BUDGET DISCUSSION.

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The general discussion of the Budget will commence on the 1st March. During that discussion hon. Members will be at liberty to discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved in it. Sub-rule (3) of rule 28 of the Council Rules empowers me to prescribe a time-limit for speeches during the general discussion of the budget, and I accordingly fix a time-limit of twenty minutes for the Leader and Deputy Leader of a Party and ten minutes for other hon. Members each. During similar discussions in the past my predecessors have deprecated the reading of manuscript speeches and I must also express my view that the reading of manuscript speeches should be quite exceptional.

" 2. The afternoon of the last day for general debate will be at the disposal of the hon. Members of the Government to make their replies. The Council will adjourn then till 13th March. On the 13th March official business other than budget business will be transacted.

" 3. The voting of grants will commence on Wednesday the 14th of March. Under sub-rule (2) of rule 30 of the Legislative Council Rules, hon. Members may, at that stage, move motions to reduce any grant or to omit or reduce any item in a grant, but not to increase or alter the destination of a grant.

" 4. Motions for reduction are generally moved either for effecting economies or for censuring a Member of Government, discussing his policy, ventilating a grievance or obtaining some information.

" 5. Motions intended for the latter purposes are generally for token sums. Regarding them, I propose as usual to insist on hon. Members mentioning in their notice of such motions, the object for which the motions are tabled. To prevent competition among hon. Members for precedence in respect of token motions intended for one and the same purpose, I would suggest to hon. Members that such motions may be for the reduction of a uniform sum of Rs. 100. Token motions by leaders of the parties will be given precedence over similar motions by other members. Subject to the rules, token motions will be given precedence over motions for effecting economies.

" 6. I may also mention that motions for the reduction of an item in a grant must have reference only to that particular item and not to the whole policy, of the Government on that and other items.

" 7 For the convenience of hon. Members, blank forms of motions have been printed and are available in the office. They can be obtained by any hon. Member on application to the Assistant Secretary. It is requested that all the details required in the form may be duly filled in by hon. Members.

" The House will now adjourn and re-assemble at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 1st March 1928."

The House accordingly adjourned.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.